

Dean Weatherby Discusses Academics, Plans For Future

by Joan Potterton

Dean Allen Weatherby, a connoisseur of literature, rare books and cats, came to Drew University in 1956, a graduate of Harvard. Before he came to Drew he had not only studied at Harvard, but worked in the administration as well.

In discussing Harvard, Dean Weatherby noted that the school was truly different from any other college. The school has changed since he was a student, today it is a national college, whereas, before it was strictly New England. He believes that the superiority of the school comes from the fact that "every lecture is perfectly polished." There are 3000 faculty members for 11,000 students. The faculty teaches two classes a week and so it is possible for a professor to spend a great deal of time in considering his lecture material, and planning a well presented lecture.

Concerning the curriculum at Drew, Dean Weatherby feels that it could use "a certain amount of streamlining. We will have to increase the salary of the faculty in order to keep good professors." As for certain revisions in the curriculum, he said, "I suspect that there is no one on the faculty who does not want some sort of revision."

Next year those students who are majoring in Literature will discover that Drew has "really brought in good men" to fill the gap left by the loss of Dr. Obler. One of the new professors is a

"Harvard man" and the other is "the top student in the graduate school at Duke." The Dean feels that the English department is "one of the best departments in the school."

Dean Weatherby plans to teach next fall, concentrating in Western Literature. He said that he "hopes to give the majority of the lectures." This semester he was not able to do so because of the "shocking hour that the class met, and that is why there were so many guest lecturers."

In discussing literature and the accusation that there are too many fossilized classics being read by high school students the Dean declared that there is "no such thing as a fossilized classic." He believes that "serious literature is difficult and only by starting with Homer and coming up to our times can we understand modern literature." He feels that Western Literature is a "terminal experience and therefore it should not be a watered down experience. We professors teach that subject with all our might and main." He believes that even though a student is not planning to go on in literature he still should have had some experience with the great works of our times. "I honestly believe that anyone who is intelligent should be able to do both Math and Literature. A person believes he is not capable and so does not try. This is a wrong attitude."

Commenting on a statement made by Robert Frost concerning literature, the Dean replied, "Robert Frost is always wrong. His homely philosophy is merely a false front, and I cannot understand why he has been continually making so many shameless

public performances. He is far too great a poet for this sort of nonsense."

In reference to the social life at Drew, Dean Weatherby replied, "Well, I certainly hear people complain about it, but they don't do anything. I feel that the students should use the metropolitan area and I was very dissatisfied about the do-it-yourself trip to New York." He had hoped to see "students falling out of the bus." About dancing, he said, "when I was young I never danced with the same girl more than twice." This going steady business is a little like some one going into a magnificent restaurant with a four foot long menu and ordering a hamburger—month after month." I might sound like an old timer but I don't believe that the younger generation is having as much fun as we did."

The Dean expects that there will be a great increase in enrollment and "next years class will be slightly over 250 students." Adding to the increase in the student body will be those students who are taking part in the Semester on the United Nations program. Approximately 70 students from colleges in the Middle West and the Far West will take part in this program each semester, and will be staying at Drew. Since Drew was "requested to make such a study available, students from Drew will be able to participate in this program too."

Dean Weatherby is a great



DEAN ALLEN L. WEATHERBY

lover of cats and insisted that they be mentioned. In the Weatherby home there now lives, besides the family of people, two cats, one a Siamese, and the other a rare Egyptian cat. "At one time we had five or six cats at a time, now there are two, and also a Basset Hound." Besides being a collector of cats, Dean Weatherby has a large collection of rare books and has a number of books that are considered to be very fine. The collection is called a "Collection of Modern Fine Press Books, including the Nonesuch Press and Shakespeare Head Press."

For the information of those students interested in why the Dean wears his watch in his top pocket, he does so "because I had an operation on my shoulder and a wrist watch would have effected the blood circulation, so I began wearing it in my pocket

and now it has become a habit." Asked why he had a Thunderbird he replied, that it was part of his "second childhood." "When I was young I never had enough money to buy an expensive car, so now I am living that part of my life over and doing it right."

In concluding the interview the Dean stated that "there is a strong possibility that I may move on campus next year." And so, if this happens those students who are new at Drew as well as those who have been here for a time will probably have a better chance of getting to know the man who "lives" in Mead Hall and drives the very red T-bird.

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